

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 04430 081814Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 /076 W
-----090211Z 118729 /65
R 081718Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 593
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 4430

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PRE-ELECTION ATMOSPHERE: VALENCIA

REF: MADRID 4320, MADRID 4345

1. AS PART OF THE EMBASSY'S CAMPAIGN COVERAGE IN PROVINCIAL AREAS (REFTELS), EMBOFF VISITED VALENCIA JUNE 1-4. WITH SOME MILLION AND A QUARTER ELIGIBLE VOTERS, AND 15 SEATS, VALENCIA PROVINCE IS THE THIRD LARGEST PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL DISTRICT IN SPAIN, COMING AFTER BARCELONA (33 SEATS) AND MADRID (32), BUT AHEAD OF SEVILLA (12 SEATS). TO A DEGREE, IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SO-CALLED "PAIS VALENCIANA" (VALENCIA, ALICANTE AND CASTELLON PROVINCES) - SOUTHERN SPAIN'S LEVANTE AREA - WHICH TOTALS WELL OVER TWO MILLION VOTERS (REPRESENTING 29 SEATS) OR ROUGHLY 10 PERCENT OF ALL SPANISH VOTERS. IT IS A BASICALLY WELL-OFF REGION WITH LITTLE POVERTY. SOUNDINGS PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS OF THE CURRENT VALENCIA POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE.

2. OBSERVERS DIFFERED IN THEIR PROJECTIONS OF ABSTENTION, BUT A PREPONDERANT NUMBER FELT THAT INTEREST WAS RUNNING HIGH (WITH LITTLE OR NO CAMPAIGN VIOLENCE) AND THAT THERE WOULD BE A STRONG VOTER TURNOUT (80 TO 85 PERCENT).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 04430 081814Z

A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT VALENCIANS TENDED TO BE LACKADAISICAL AND WERE HARD TO MOBILIZE. THE HEAD OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LIST (VICENTE RUIZ MONRABAL) OPINED THAT THE MORE DISCIPLINED RURAL VOTERS WOULD MAKE A BETTER SHOWING THAN THEIR URBAN COUNTERPARTS.

3. MOST OF THE POLITICAL GROUPINGS IN VALENCIA (18 ARE COMPETING) ARE PUSHING THE VALENCIAN "REGIONALISM" THEME, ALTHOUGH WITH PERHAPS LESS FERVOR THAN THEIR BASQUE OR CATALAN COUNTERPARTS. MAYOR RAMON IZQUIERDA TOLD US THAT THE REGIONALISM ISSUE WAS SOMETHING OF A FAD, AND THAT MOST VALENCIANS WERE REALLY NOT THAT INTERESTED IN THE SO-CALLED AUTONOMY QUESTION. HE SPECULATED THAT THERE WAS PERHAPS A CERTAIN DESIRE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC AUTONOMY, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ANY POLITICAL AUTONOMY. OTHER OBSERVERS PREDICTED THAT THE THREE VALENCIAN PROVINCES WOULD BE COOPERATING CLOSELY ON ECONOMIC ISSUES IN THE NEW CORTES.

4. THERE APPEARED TO BE A GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT AS ON THE NATIONAL SCENE, THE CENTER WOULD ATTRACT A PLURALITY OF VOTES NOT BECAUSE OF ITS POLITICAL PLATFORM - "ALL THE PARTIES SEEM THE SAME" - BUT ABOVE ALL BECAUSE OF THE PULL OF SUAREZ. THE APPEARANCE OF SUAREZ ON TV JUNE 13 WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS LAST-MINUTE VOTE-GETTING EXERCISE. AS A LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HIERARCHY PUT IT, VALENCIANS DID NOT WANT ANY BIG CHANGE. RATHER, THEY WANTED THE SAME MODERATE AND "SAFE" RATE OF DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS THAT SUAREZ HAD BEEN GIVING THEM. HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT A SIZABLE NUMBER OF AP VOTERS WOULD CAST THEIR BALLOTS FOR THE UCD IN ORDER NOT TO "WASTE" THEIR VOTES, AND WOULD THEN REVERT TO THE AP AFTER THE ELECTIONS. A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR COMMENTED THAT WHILE VALENCIA WAS ESSENTIALLY CONSERVATIVE, THE BANKERS WERE CURRENTLY SUPPORTING THE UCD, NOT THE AP (WHICH HAD MANY FRANCOISTS IN ITS RANKS).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 04430 081814Z

5. ON THE COMMUNIST FRONT, THE SAME CHURCHMAN HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE HEAD OF THE VALENCIA PCE LIST (EMERITO BONO) THAT THE PCE WAS TAKING A BLAND LINE IN THE CAMPAIGN, SACRIFICING VOTES (FROM DISILLUSIONED RADICAL YOUTHS) AND LOOKING RATHER AT FUTURE LONG-TERM GAINS. IN THIS CONTEXT, MAYOR IZQUIERDA AND A HIGH-RANKED DGS OFFICIAL BOTH ASSERTED THAT THE REAL GOAL OF THE PCE WAS THE COMING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. OF ALL THE PARTIES, THE PCE WAS THE BEST ORGANIZED AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL, WORKING THROUGH "FAMILY" AND "NEIGHBORHOOD" ASSOCIATIONS. WITH RESPECT TO THE PSOE, WHILE IT WAS WEAKER IN VALENCIA THAN IN OTHER REGIONS OF SPAIN, FELIPE GONZALEZ WAS A MAGNETIC DRAWING CARD. MOST OBSERVERS AS A MATTER OF FACT COMMENTED THAT POLITICAL PERSONALITIES RATHER THAN POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES OR PLATFORMS WERE PLAYING THE GREATEST ROLE IN THESE FIRST NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

6. OBSERVERS ALLOCATED VALENCIA'S 15 SEATS AS FOLLOWS (WITH THE CAVEAT THAT MANY VOTERS WERE STILL UNDECIDED):

THE CENTER (UCD PLUS A SPLIT-OFF CENTRO POPULAR GROUP)
5 TO 8 WITH MOST PREDICTING 6; AP 2 OR 3; UDPV
(CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS) 2; PSOE 2 OR 3; PSP 1 OR 2;
AND PCE 1. WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO OTHER PROVINCES,
ALICANTE TENDED TO BE A BIT MORE TO THE LEFT AND
CASTELLON MORE TO THE RIGHT. ALLOCATIONS FOR ALICANTE'S
9 SEATS WERE ROUGHLY UCD 3; PSOE 3; AP 3; AND UPDV 1.
THE SPLIT PREDICTED FOR CASTELLON (5 SEATS) WAS UCD
2 OR 3; AP 2; AND PSOE POSSIBLY 1. THERE WAS LITTLE
IF ANY INTEREST EXPRESSED IN THE SENATE RACES (4 SEATS
PER PROVINCE), OBSERVERS CONTENTING THEMSELVES WITH VAGUE
ALLOCATIONS TO THE UCD, AP, PSOE, AND THE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS IN THAT ORDER. STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, REPORTS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID04430
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770205-0253
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770679/aaaacqzm.tel
Line Count: 129
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d8ca182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 4320, 77 MADRID 4345
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2231555
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRE-ELECTION ATMOSPHERE: VALENCIA
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d8ca182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009